

# Safety Committee backs purchase of life-saving equipment

By Don Michels (The Safety Guy), HR

The City-wide Safety Committee has recommended to Council that the City place Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) in City-owned, public facilities.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), which kills 350,000 people in the U.S. each year, can strike anyone. The American Heart Association says the only definitive treatment for this emergency is defibrillation -- administering an electrical pulse through the heart to restore normal heart rhythm.

Widespread deployment of AEDs in public places gives SCA victims a better chance of survival. AEDs are already in use in Federal buildings, airports, and airlines; now many state and local governments are placing these units into service. The cities of San Diego, Encinitas, Poway and San Marcos have recently started AED programs.

The Safety Committee requested 15 units for use around the City. The first units will be placed at City libraries, recreation centers, and pools. The Nature Center, Council Chambers, City Hall, the Chula Vista Community Youth Center, the Police Department, and the Public Works Center have also been targeted for AED placement. Members of the Committee believe that greater public access to this life-saving equipment will benefit both staff and citizens. AEDs are being ordered now and will be placed into service soon.

The Fire Department is training City employees to use AEDs; if you are interested in saving lives, please express interest to your Safety Committee Representative (see list below).

Fire	Rick Brand or Jeff Peter
Recreation	Brian Cox
Custodial	Barry Edwards
Parks	Larry Eliason
Police	Glenn Isaaks or Gary Wedge
City Hall, Com Dev, Legislative	Emma Lewark or Kim Stevens
Public Works Ops	Dave McRoberts
Public Services Building	Bob McSeveney
Library	Eric Rhee